

HOLY CROSS DAY



SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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OPENING HYMN "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS" 425

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠ P. 203

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 98:1,4,6; ANTIPHON: V. 2

The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Lord has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

KYRIE & GLORIA IN EXCELSIS P. 204

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBERS 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

ISAIAH 49:22A, JOHN 3:14B-15

Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples," [says the Lord.] So must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

EPISTLE

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of

God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 205

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 12:20-33

P The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. ²⁷"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

P. 206

HYMN OF THE DAY "SING, MY TONGUE, THE GLORIOUS BATTLE" 454

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your Mercy, **G** Hear our Prayer.

In Our Prayers:

+ Andy Birkholz	+ Bonnie Mueller
+ Phyllis Ernst	+ Sonya Clausen
+ Scott Christenson	+ Dan Gueningsman
+ Beverly Paulson	+ Maya Radtke
+ Atticus Aldrich	+ Elva Kjenstad

OFFERING

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 208-210

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

Examination Questions: Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“THE TREE OF LIFE”	561
“THY STRONG WORD”	578
“UPON THE CROSS EXTENDED”	453
NUNC DIMITTIS	P. 211
BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION	P. 212
CLOSING HYMN “LIFT HIGH THE CROSS”	837

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

<u>Attendance Last Week</u> Sunday: N/A	<u>Organist:</u> Lynn Mueller
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<u>Acknowledgement:</u> + A memorial for Margaret Lueck was received in the amount of \$20.00 for the Windows of Faith Campaign.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ITEMS AVAILABLE – As a major cleaning of the Sunday School rooms is taking place, many excess items are available for congregation member. Please view the items on the tables by the coat racks and take what you can use.

2. 7th-12th GRADERS – Starting next week (during the Sunday School hour) we are having a bible study for you in the Youth Room, lead by Taylor Mueller. Please come and please register for Sunday School.

3. WINDOWS OF FAITH UPDATE – Currently we have received approximately \$58,000 out of the \$78,000 need for this project. Windows in the Education Wing have been replaced. Trim work will be completed on these windows soon. Stained glass windows will be repaired as money is available. A reminder that you can contribute to this project at any time. See the display in the Upper Narthex for more information, and for special offering envelopes. (You may also use your regular envelopes and indicate “Windows of Faith”)

4. LWML – It's time to collect items for School Kits that will be sent to Orphan Grain Train to distribute to kids who need them. The following are items requested by OGT. They ask not to deviate from this list. There is a sample kit on the LWML table. Light weight back packs (new or gently used). Spiral notebook (70 sheet), Pencils, Pens (like Bic), Construction Paper, 24 Count Crayons, 12" Ruler, Glue Sticks, Child Scissors, Eraser, 12 Count Colored Pencils, Pencil Sharpener, Single Pocket Folder. Place items in the bin below the table. You may also donate cash and we'll purchase the items.

5. MEETING – LWML invites all women to join us on Monday, September 14 at **6:30** in an education classroom. There will be a Bible study and coins (mites) will be collected for missions. A donation will be given from the treasury to Lutheran Bible Translators and Vicar Alex Nelson who is currently serving a congregation in Green Bay.

6. BIBLE STUDY – The Book of Beginnings will be held on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m., beginning Thursday, September 17th. This bible study will be led by Pastor Arndt and Pastor Barlau.

7. PORK CHOP DINNER BENEFIT for Scott Christenson hosted by the Lester Prairie Fire Department on Saturday, October 10th from 11am - 1pm at the Lester Prairie Fire Station. Tickets sold in advance, with a limited number of walk up tickets available. Please see members of the fire department for tickets, Steve Dietel, Keith Christen, Jim Hoof, Shadd Dial, or Calvin Dial.

8. SERVICE UPDATE- The St. Michael and All Saints Worship Service will be held on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:30 p.m. (Update from September Lamplighter calendar).

9. CONFIRMATION STUDENTS/PARENTS- Please check your emails! An email was sent out last week (to whatever email address was listed on the sign-up sheet) with the link to sign-up for Acolyting. Deadline to sign-up is September 23rd, otherwise you will be scheduled by the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Admin. Assistant Amanda (stpaulslp@embarqmail.com, 320-395-2573).

10. SCHEDULE – September 20 ~ Ushers: 1st Service: Keith Christen, Dave Dressler, Kim Dressler; 2nd Service: Scott Christenson, Larry Clausen, Shadd Dial, Calvin Dial; Acolytes: 1st Service: B. Mike, M. Schauer; 2nd Service: E. Garfunkel, T. Parpart; Greeters- 1st Service: Nick & Karissa Rasset, 2nd Service: Jason & Mandy Lyons; Flowers: Jane Holasek; Altar Guild: Jennifer Mallak, Barb Kegler; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. Sept 13	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMMUNION Sunday School Rally Sunday WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMMUNION
Mon. Sept 14	Noon 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	4 th Grade Release Time Class Board Meetings LWML Meeting Council Meeting
Wed. Sept 16	Noon 2:55 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin 5 th /6 th Grade Release Time Class Confirmation Class
Thurs. Sept 17	8:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Sandwich Ministry Bible Study
Sun. Sept 20	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION Sunday School/ Bible Study WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION